

Description of Biennial Differences

Strategy A.1.2- Increase due to anticipated salary growth from 4 percent legislated salary increase.

Strategy A.1.3- Reduction due to decrease in earned federal funds collections which impacted Family-Based Safety Services purchased services. (Restoration is requested as an exceptional item.)

Strategy A.1.5- FY 2004-2005 includes projected caseload growth in Foster Care and Adoption Subsidy Payments.

Strategy A.1.6- Increase due to maintaining FY 03 service levels for providers.

Strategy A.3.1- Increase due to maintaining additional CLASS staff for FY 2004-2005 biennium.

Indirect Strategies- Includes informational Capital Budget for Capital Projects.

STRATEGY DESCRIPTIONS

A.1.1 CPS Statewide Intake- This strategy includes dollars and FTE's for Statewide Intake (SWI) staff to perform the function of receiving reports of child abuse and neglect. Centralizing the intake function was designed to improve the consistency, efficiency and accountability of reporting. Statewide coverage of the intake function was completed in July 1999 and SWI presently offers full-time (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) coverage for all of Texas.

This strategy also reports the total number of calls reporting abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation for all programs, as well as the number of information, referral, and special request calls. This information is reported in Output Measure 01-01-01.01 *Number of Calls Received by Statewide Intake Staff*. The reason all calls, regardless of program, are reported under this strategy is because the automated tracking system cannot make a program distinction at the time calls are received.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions governing the development and implementation of this strategy include Titles IV-A, IV-B Part 1, IV-E, and XIX of the Social Security Act; Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act; Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; Indian Child Welfare Act; Texas Family Code; Title 5; and Human Resources Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

A.1.2 Child and Family Services- In this strategy, PRS investigates reports of children who are alleged victims of abuse and/or neglect. If the need for continuing protective services is identified, service plans are developed and implemented with the goal of preventing future abuse or neglect. If it is determined that children are not safe in their own homes because of abuse or neglect or the risk of abuse/neglect, the children may be placed temporarily in substitute care. When a child cannot safely return home, and other permanency plan such as adoption is in the best interest of a child, staff work toward placing the child with a permanent family.

This strategy reports several distinct programs as a sub-strategy:

CPS Direct Delivery Staff

Contributed CPS Direct Delivery Staff

CPS Program Support and Training
 Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)
 Child Fatality Review Team
 Discretionary Federal Projects

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy include Titles IV-A, IV-B subparts 1 & 2, IV-E, XIX and XX of the Social Security Act; Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act; Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; Indian Child Welfare Act; Texas Family Code, Title 5; HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42; and the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999.

A.1.3 Purchased Services- Under this strategy, PRS purchases services for families and children who need therapeutic and other services to facilitate the achievement of the service plan and/or to comply with a court order that mandates their participation in services. Services are provided to children who are in substitute care, and families of children who are in substitute care, or children who remain in their own homes, and families of children who remain in their own home; services include, but are not limited to, counseling, living assessment and skills training, and chemical dependency treatment for adolescents referred by CPS.

This strategy has the following sub-strategies:

TWC Protected Day Care
 TWC Foster Day Care
 CPS Temporary Substitute Foster Care
 CPS Post-Adoption Services
 Preparation for Adult Living
 CPS Substance Abuse Services
 CPS Other Client Services

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions governing this strategy include Titles IV-A, IV-B subparts 1 & 2, IV-E, XIX, and XX of the Social Security Act; Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act; Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; Indian Child Welfare Act; Texas Family Code, Title 5; Human Resources Code, Chapters 40 and 42; and the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999.

A.1.4 Intensive Family Preservation/Reunification- In 1993, Congress passed the Family Preservation and Support Services Act that enabled states to expand or create new family preservation services. In the Act, family preservation services were defined as direct and purchased services designed to help families alleviate crises that might lead to out of home placement of children, maintain the safety of children in their own home, support families preparing to reunify or adopt, and assist families in obtaining services and other support necessary to address their multiple needs.

Based on this legislation, PRS created intensive family preservation/reunification units which allowed clients to receive family preservation and reunification services with a reduced client-to-staff ratio. These services were then expanded to include moderate level services. Two levels of services, moderate and intensive, allow staff to respond to the initial crisis with intensive services when the family is most open to change, and then reduce the services to a moderate level prior to closure of the case to allow the family to fully integrate the changes and build their independence from the department.

“Intensified” services differ from regular family preservation/reunification services in the enforcement and monitoring of smaller caseloads; increased frequency of staff/provider contacts with the family; and shorter time frames to achieve desired outcomes. This strategy contains two sub-strategies:

Intensified Family Preservation/Reunification Direct Delivery Staff
Intensified Family Preservation/Reunification Purchased Services

A.1.5 Foster Care/Adoption Payments- PRS provides financial assistance/reimbursement for the care/treatment of children who have been removed from their homes and placed in child care facilities, such as foster homes and residential treatment facilities, as a result of abuse/neglect allegations. Reunification services are provided with the goal of returning the child home or placing the child with relatives; when reunification is not possible, terminating parental rights is sought with the goal of placing the child in an adoptive home.

Financial assistance reduces barriers to adoption for sibling groups, minority children, school-age children and children with disabilities and provides for adopted special-needs children. Funds are provided to verify, monitor, and enforce compliance with federal, state, and PRS contract performance requirements.

PRS Piloted PACE (Permanency Achieved through Coordinated Efforts), 24-hour residential child care and emergency placement services for therapeutic level children in 10 counties in the Arlington region. This pilot was discontinued on April 1, 2001.

This strategy contributes to meeting the agency goal of providing protective services and the agency objective of reducing child abuse and neglect guided by Titles IV-A, IV-E, and XX of the Social Security Act; Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act; Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; Indian Child Welfare Act; Texas Family Code, Title 5; and Human Resources Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

A.1.6 At-Risk Prevention Services- This strategy is a compilation of diverse, specialized programs emphasizing prevention and early intervention, and involving community initiative and innovation to treat the problems that may lead to abuse, neglect, juvenile delinquency, and academic failure. Most program services are delivered through community agencies under state contract; each program is reported under a separate sub-strategy as follows:

Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR)
Community Youth Development (CYD) Program

Texas Families: Together and Safe Program
 Healthy Families Program
 Facility Based Youth Enrichment
 At-Risk Mentoring Program
 Parents As Teachers
 Dan Kubiak Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program
 Communities In Schools
 Community-Based Family Resource and Support

A.1.7 Children's Trust Fund- The Children's Trust Fund of Texas (CTF) was established in 1985 by the Texas Legislature to help prevent the tragedy of child abuse and neglect. CTF became a state agency in 1991. The 77th Legislature SB 1475 transferred the CTF program to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) in September 2001. The Children's Trust Fund of Texas is now under the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division of TDPRS.

Children's Trust Fund's single mandate is to prevent child abuse and neglect. The CTF is supported by revenue from a portion of the each marriage license fee.

The strategy supports the dedicated trust fund to ensure a continuing resource for assisting with the development and implementation of prevention programs as well as offering services to strengthen parents, children, and families.

A.2.1 Adult Protective Services- Adult Protective Services (APS) staff receive and investigate reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly persons (defined as 65 and older) and adults at 18 to 64 with disabilities. When maltreatment is confirmed, APS staff provide or arrange services to remedy or prevent further abuse. APS also investigates reports concerning persons with disabilities under age 18 when they have been declared legal adults. Cases are often complex and client capacities questionable. APS workers must be able to understand, synthesize and apply knowledge from a broad array of disciplines, such as gerontology, mental health, developmental disabilities, health care, medications, and the law, to be effective.

The strategy includes sub-strategies for: APS Statewide Intake, APS Direct Delivery Staff, APS Guardianship Program, APS Purchased Emergency Client Services, and APS Program Support and Training.

This statutory and/or constitutional provisions governing the development and implementation of this strategy include Titles XIX and XX of the Social Security Act; HR Code Chapters 40 and 48, Crime Victim's Compensation, General Revenue, and GR-XIX Match.

A.2.2 MHMR Investigations- Staff funded by this strategy receive and investigate reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of persons, regardless of age, served by or through Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) facilities and community MHMR centers, their contractors, and home and community-based waiver (HCS-W) programs.

This strategy includes sub-strategies for: MHMR Statewide Intake, MHMR Facility Investigations Staff, MHMR Community Center Investigations Staff, and MHMR Investigations Program Support.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions governing the development and implementation of this strategy include Titles XIX and XX of the Social Security Act; Texas Family Code, Title 5; Human Resources Code, Chapter 40 and 48; Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapters 532, 576, 591-595.

A.3.1 Child Care Regulation- PRS protects children placed in care outside of their own homes by regulating childcare facilities. Minimum standards to protect the health, safety and well being of children in care are developed by Child Care Licensing (CCL). CCL regulates day care, 24-hour (residential) care, maternity homes, administrators of residential childcare facilities, and agencies that place children in foster care and adoption. PRS enforces compliance with minimum standards through routine inspections of CCL facilities and through investigations of complaints alleging non-compliance with minimum standards. When a facility fails to correct non-compliance in a timely manner, adverse action against that facility may include probation, suspension or revocation of the listing, license or registration. Licensing staff also investigate reports alleging child abuse/neglect and reports of serious incidents in which children are injured or are otherwise considered at-risk in childcare facilities.

The following sub-strategies are in this strategy:

- Child Care Regulation (CCR) Day Care Staff
- CCR Residential Child Care Staff
- CCR Program Support and Training
- CCR Automation Project

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions governing this strategy include Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and the Child Care Development Fund; HR Code, Chapters 40, 42, 43; the Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 299; and the Texas Family Code Sections 261.401 – 261.409.

A.4.1 Maintain Automated System- The Maintain Automated Support Systems strategy provides funds for outsourced services to operate the Child and Adult Protective System (CAPS), Hardware Maintenance, Help Desk, Workstations and Network Operations, etc.

CAPS provides complete casework management for reported cases of abuse and neglect in Texas and links all activities from intake to foster and adoptive casework. CAPS also meets all federal requirements for Child Welfare Information Systems and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System. CAPS allows PRS staff to manage resources; enhance caseworker productivity and efficiency; and improve the quality and utilization of information. CAPS serves Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services and the investigation function of Child Care Licensing. It also interfaces with agencies such as the OAG and DPS and is essential for funds accountability.

Continued funding of this strategy supports PRS' objectives of reducing child and adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and it addresses the statewide benchmark of "Incidence of confirmed cases of abuse, neglect, or death of children, the elderly, persons with disabilities or spouses" contained in the statewide priority goal of reducing dependence on public assistance. The statutory and/or constitutional provisions governing this strategy include Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993; and Titles IV-A, IV-B part 2, IV-E, XIX, and XX of the Social Security Act.

B.1.1 Central Administration- This strategy consists of State Office staff who support PRS programs at executive levels, including the executive director's office, internal audit, public affairs, and government relations. It also includes legal, accounting, budget, financial reporting, human resource management and staff development, and contract administration.

Sections 40.002, 40.031, and 40.032 of the Human Resources Code gives the agency the authority to staff at the level necessary to efficiently administer and discharge the agency's functions. A key component to successful program delivery is adequate funding/staffing of the indirect administration functions. Having an appropriate level of administrative support allows the direct delivery worker to concentrate all of his/her efforts toward the clients who need assistance.

B.1.2 Information Resources- This strategy consists of State Office staff who are responsible for PRS automation and telecommunications activities. The Information Technology divisions are responsible for managing the Child and Adult Protective System (CAPS), the agency's statewide case management delivery system. IT is also responsible for managing the implementation of the Integrated Statewide Administrative System (ISAS) project. Other responsibilities include development and maintenance of the agency Strategic Plan for Information Resources and the Biennial Operating Plan submitted to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), automation project management, PRS network management, contract management of automation services and change management.

Sections 40.002, 40-031, and 40.032 of the Human Resources Code give the agency the authority to staff at the level necessary to efficiently administer and discharge the agency's functions. A key component to successful program delivery is adequate funding/staffing of the indirect administration functions. Having an appropriate level of administrative support allows indirect delivery worker to concentrate all of his/her efforts toward the clients who need assistance.

B.1.3 Other Support Services- This strategy consists of State Office staff who handle business services activities such as leasing and facility management, procurement of goods and services (excluding automation), Historically Underutilized Business Program (HUB), travel management, records management, on-line agency handbooks, and centralized assets inventory management.

Sections 40.002, 40.031, and 40.032 of the Human Resources Code give the agency the authority to staff at the level necessary to efficiently administer and discharge the agency's functions. A key component to successful program delivery is adequate funding/staffing of the indirect administration functions. Having an appropriate level of administrative support allows the direct delivery worker to concentrate all of his/her efforts towards the clients who need assistance.

B.1.4 Regional Administration- PRS operates through 11 regional headquarters offices with over 260 local offices spread throughout the state. Regional boundaries are defined so that they are uniform for all Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies. This strategy consists of the regional directors and their staff who provide functions such as budget management, business services, human resources, and automation support at the regional level.

Sections 40.002, 40.031, and 40.032 of the Human Resources Code give the agency the authority to staff at the level necessary to efficiently administer and discharge the agency's functions. A key component to successful program delivery is adequate funding/staffing of the indirect administration functions. Having an appropriate level of administrative support allows the direct delivery worker to concentrate all of his/her efforts towards the clients who need assistance.